

Mohave County Miner.

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The Virgin City Field.

William F. Taylor, of the Virgin Oil & Development company, returned Sunday from the southern Utah oil fields. Mr. Taylor is quite enthusiastic over the prospects for the new oil field. He says that many are going in and that machinery for several wells is now en route. Those going to Virgin are, in the main, moneyed men, investors and experts. President Remick, of Mr. Taylor's company, is now on the ground with a party of Salt Lake capitalists who are negotiating for some land. This same company, which is composed of Riolite people, has just closed a deal with Aldridge & Mc Masters, of Goldfield, whereby the latter take over under lease a valuable tract of land and purchase from the company one of the three rigs which has been shipped to Virgin.

The company is now rigging two of its wells. While these are being pushed down derricks will be installed upon other ground owned by the company. Mr. Taylor says that three wells per week can be put down. Four "dead men", or heavy timbers, will be placed on a brace for the casing in the first well sunk by the Virgin River Oil & Development company. This will be done for the purpose of holding the ground in case a gusher is developed. At this well also will be built natural reservoirs or tanks for the storage of oil temporarily.

Lumber, men and teams are scarce at Virgin, and for this reason the progress of the company has not been as rapid as it otherwise would be. Mr. Taylor says that people, to do business, should take lumber in, as the sawmills have all they can do for this summer. The closest mill is fifteen miles distant. The lumber is let down from the mills by cable a distance of 2,700 feet and then hauled by freight teams, which are very scarce. The mills are located high in the mountains and much snow falls in the winter, making it next to impossible to get lumber during the winter months.

There are, besides the three rigs of the Rhyolite company—which are now on the ground—five other oil well rigs now going into Virgin. These are the Paraffine Virgin River Oil company, the Southern Utah Oil company, the Harper and Montgomery people, James R. Clark of Bullfrog and the Cedar City company, besides others that are coming from the east.

Pat Holohan, of the Virgin River Oil & Development company, who has been on the ground almost continuously since work was first started, says that by the first of the year there will be from twenty-five to thirty rigs in operation at Virgin.

Mr. Taylor says that hotel accommodations are poor and scarce at Virgin. Speaking about the natives, Mr. Taylor says they are great traders; that the products of the gardens and farms are considered currency by all hands, who trade their eggs for lumber, fruit for molasses and cheese, and cereals for tobacco, etc. Tons of fruit are going to waste at Virgin. Of course, the peddlers have a better market than before the oil excitement, but nevertheless they cannot come anywhere near disposing of their crops of plums, peaches, apples and grapes.—Rhyolite, Nevada, Miner.

Christmas Deserted.

Few people realize how complete is the demoralization wrought in the Saddle Mountain mining district from which so much was expected, because of the recent slump in the copper market. It is hard for the average mind to grasp the fact that the machinations of a few keen minds operating on Wall street can have the result of blasting, temporarily at least, the hopes of a promising region and almost depopulating a busy little city.

Yet such is the fate that has befallen the mining town of Christmas, according to A. G. Alsap, who was the postmaster of the town until the residents became so few that the postoffice was discontinued. Alsap arrived in Phenix yesterday, and will make his home here for the time being.

"The Saddle Mountain mine," said he, which gave birth to Christmas,

and is its sole reason for existence, is closed tight. People have heard that men had been laid off from the mine, and that it was closed in the sense that no ore shipments were being made, but the impression was always left that a fair crew of men were still working there. On the contrary, there is absolutely nothing doing.

"During the winter, between 600 and 700 men were on the pay roll. Now there are five men in the mine and one bookkeeper. Just enough men are kept employed to run the pumps without which the mine would speedily be rendered worthless.

"When I became postmaster last winter, Christmas had in round numbers, 1200 inhabitants. Today there are not to exceed fifty people in the town, and even they are preparing to leave as soon as possible.

"It is the 'deserted village' pure and simple, but its period of stagnation is merely a matter of weeks or months. The Saddle Mountain handles low-grade ores exclusively, and for that reason their margin of profits is smaller than it would otherwise be. That being true, the combination of high expense and feather-edge profits has put a good proposition out of commission.

"When the copper market regains its equilibrium, Christmas will be all that it ever was, and more. You can't keep a good country down any more than a good man, and we are all looking forward hopefully to the day when our district will be second to none in the entire territory."—Phenix Democrat.

Gold Mining in the Klondike.

The gold output of the Canadian Yukon—the Klondike—for this year is placed at 3,000,000, the smallest production since the region became an important producer in 1898. This marked falling off is due mainly to the past dry summer, which has been the driest season ever known in the country; this resulted in the curtailment of hydraulic mining and other placer operations. The noteworthy gold-winning was with dredges, seven of which have been at work while five more are being made ready for next season. Additional dredges, as well as extensive hydraulic mining plants, will be installed next summer, and the indications are that the 1907 yield will be the smallest recorded for many years. An abundance of water is now assured by the completion of the Guggenheim water-supply system, which consists of over seventy miles of ditches, flumes and piping; the ditches are in places as wide as twenty-five feet; the supply from this system will be available in early summer. The magnitude of the operations under way may be gathered on learning that the Guggenheims alone are employing about 1,700 men.

Mr. W. B. McInnes, formerly Gold Commissioner of Yukon Territory, whose statements we have quoted above, also says that the Yukon river has been so low this season that steamers from both Whitehorse and St. Michaels have experienced great difficulty in reaching Dawson, as a result of which there will be a shortage of provisions at Dawson and other upper Yukon river points this winter; it is not likely that conditions will be serious, although considerable inconvenience is anticipated. It is estimated that between 5,000 and 6,000 people will winter at Dawson and other Klondike settlements.—Denver Mining Reporter.

Rich Strike in New Mexico Mine.

A remarkably rich strike has recently been made on the Laura mine at Steeple Rock, Grant county, New Mexico. It starting an upraise for stopping on the 300-foot level a large body of ore was encountered, heavily impregnated with argentite, cerargyrite and pyrrargyrite, (silver glance, horn silver and ruby silver) and carries heavy gold values. Two carloads of this character of ore have been already mined and the rich shoot has opened to twelve feet in width and the walls have not been reached. The length has not been determined and the ore still shows as rich as ever, twenty feet high in the upraise. Grab

samples assay from 500\$ to 1500\$ in gold and silver, and the whole average is estimated to run several hundred dollars per ton. It is conceded by the management to be the same ore shoot that was encountered in the first and second levels. This is the stopping that has been started in the mine, all work heretofore having been sinking and drifting. The mine has been producing about a carload of shipping ore per day from this work alone since it has been lately reopened. The mine was purchased twelve years ago for 100,000\$ by a syndicate of New York and Paris bankers and has been shut down ever since until a few months ago. Harold C. E. Spence, while in Europe recently, succeeded in obtaining a long time lease and bond on the property and has been working it in conjunction with Fred Perry, of Clifton. About 40 men are at present employed.—Copper Era.

Conditions at Bisbee.

The Shattuck-Arizona continues to produce about 400 tons of ore daily, one-half of which is oxide and the other sulphide. The former goes to the Copper Queen smelters at Douglas for treatment, while the latter is handled at Globe. Most of the ore is being taken from the 700 and 800 levels, although some of it comes from the 900, where a body of low grade ore was encountered some weeks ago. The winze which is being sunk on the Leo claim at the 800 level continues in high grade ore, proving beyond doubt that the deposit is one of very large dimensions.

During the past week the production of the Denn-Arizona has been slightly enlarged, regular shipments being made to the smelter in Douglas. The main attention is being given to the opening up of the ore body encountered on the 1000 and 1100 levels. Stopping is going on steadily and most of the ore shipped is being taken from this portion of the mine.

During the past week every effort has been devoted to the driving of the tunnel from the Higgins property into the Wolverine & Arizona group, with the idea of ascertaining whether the copper deposit encountered a short time ago has been penetrated. After going through about forty feet of high grade ore the tunnel again broke into an altered limestone formation, and has continued in it. It is probable that work in the tunnel will be discontinued and attention given to the driving of an incline following the dip of the ore.

On Monday operations were resumed at the North Bisbee property, after a shut down extending over a couple of weeks for the purpose of retimbering the shaft and installing new machinery. A full force is now on the ground, sinking the shaft, and driving the tunnel.

Although at some of the properties production has been curtailed owing to the unsettled condition of the copper market, at the various shafts of the Superior & Pittsburg operations have gone on the same as usual, and in fact a slight increase in production will be recorded for September. Most of the output is from the Cole shaft, where development of the ore bodies is being prosecuted steadily.

At the various Copper Queen mines most of the attention is being directed toward the development of new ore bodies, and the blocking out of various deposits. No effort is being made toward increasing production because of the unsettled condition of the market.—Journal-Miner.

Copper Found in Iron Mine.

What is believed by well informed mining men to be the biggest copper strike ever made in this country, is now being uncovered on the Union Hill mines at Fierro, by the Colorado Fuel & Iron Co., who are operating the same under lease, says the Silver City, N. M., Enterprise. The iron ore on Union Hill has carried a trace of copper from the grass-roots but not enough to interfere with it making a good quality of bessemer steel. Of late, however, this percentage has gradually increased and at the same time, with the increase in depth, some

deposits of rich copper ore have been uncovered. The ore is copper pyrite and peacock copper and it occurs not in little bunches but in big deposits so that in the last few days 4000 tons of the ore has been thrown aside as by the terms of the lease, the C. F. & I Co. is entitled only to the iron ore, all the copper ore they uncover being the property of the owners of the mine.

It is estimated that there are at least 75,000 tons of ore in sight, which will average two and one-half per cent or better in copper. Moreover the ore is an ideal smelting ore, carrying its own flux of iron and lime and therefore even though the percentage is small it can be smelted at considerable profit, with copper even at 15 cents. But it is believed by experienced mining engineers who have been on the property within the last few months, that this 75,000 tons in sight is but a mere bagatelle compared to the deposit beneath the surface. This deposit or vein can be traced for over 4,500 feet across the mountain and it has an average width of 75 feet, with walls of porphyry and lime.

Zinc Mill for Park City.

A dispatch from Park City, Utah, says: Park City companies whose ores contain a liberal sprinkling of zinc values, are anxiously anticipating the completion and operation of the Grassley Chemical Co.'s new plant on or near the property of the Daly Judge company. Little is known outside of interested circles just what the intention of this new organization for Park City really is, but those who appreciate the importance of the proposition are unanimous in stating that the plant will solve the zinc question that long has been agitated in that camp.

The Grassley company of Cleveland is said to be one of the strongest combinations of its kind in the country. It has ample capital with which to wrestle with problems of this character. The company has been brought to Park City, it is stated, by the efforts of the Daly Judge officials, and this organization will be among the first to send its zinc-bearing ores to the mill for treatment. The plant will be a custom enterprise, thus giving every property in Park City and vicinity an opportunity to dispose of such ores. The plant is to have an initial capacity of from 50 to 75 tons of rock a day.

The purpose of the mill will be to concentrate the ores containing zinc so as to make a high-grade smelting product. Machinery for the plant is ordered, and everything should be in shape for active business by the first of the coming year.—Salt Lake Mining Review.

Will Treat All Its Ties.

An Albuquerque dispatch says: One of the greatest institutions of its kind in the United States, and possibly in the world, is the new tie treating plant which the Santa Fe is now completing just south of the south yards in this city. The new plant is a monster, and its size is beginning to appear in true proportions. Experts from other railroads who have examined the big Santa Fe plant and watched its construction, state that it is beyond any doubt the largest and best equipped in the United States, and that its capacity will be immense. It will be ready for use within a short time. Already a large number of ties have been contracted for and as soon as the plant is in readiness it will be started in its work of making timber impervious to dampness and rot.

Not only are the ties and bridge timbers used on the line of the Santa Fe to be treated at this plant, but also all the outside timbers used in construction, where it is possible to use the treated timber.

The fact that the treatment of timber by his method lengthens its life many years and in fact almost makes it able to wholly defy the laws of time and wear, is the great consideration with the Santa Fe and other systems.

The increasing scarcity of available timber for railroad purposes has made it necessary to take steps to increase the life of what the roads can secure, hence the tie treating industry of the country.

A composition of creosote is the formula usually prescribed for treatment of ties and other timber, in order to render it almost perpetual and at the same time not to injure its elasticity. The fluid is pumped by powerful machines into the grain and fibre of the wood and goes entirely through it. Wood so treated, once laid, does not have to be taken from its position for many years, thus making the cost of relaying track the minimum.

At Sydenham, Ontario, 16 miles from Kingston, is located the largest mica mine in the world. The product is mostly amber mica, with some silver amber, the highest quality mined. The mine is one mile from the upper end of Sydenham lake, and the mica is transported in bulk from the mine by barge to the railroad at Sydenham, where it is shipped to Ottawa for trimming for the market. From Ottawa it is exported to the United States and other points. This valuable mine is owned and worked by Americans, and the output is almost entirely taken by one of the largest American electric companies.

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